Dear Dave,

5/3/90

Thanks for the copy of Hersh's fine Sunday Times article on Iran/Contra. I'll give it to Jerry. He also doesn't get the Times.

I'm glad that belated as it is the Times does give some space and attention to what it should have been doing contemporaneously. The specifics and the direct quotes are good to have recorded.

Our great tragedy is that when one of the institutions fail these years they all fail. It was not always this way. In this instance, when the Congress failed the press decided to fail along with it.

As with Watergate, save for the Post's limited objective, which precisely suited the later and identically limited Congressional objective: no impeachment. And no CIA.

It was apparent to me, without any knowledge of what would follow, that the way the Congress tolerated Brendan Sullivan's abuses forecast its course.

You may not have known it but before the hearings began the Post carried one or more lengthy stories on the kind of terror Sullivan is, how he intimidated everybody, even the judges. I then wondered if he had been responsible for that story or stories. Not so much as boasting but as intimidating. His behavior was bad and Inoye should have clobbered him. When neither Inoye nor any other Member did it was apparent that he was going to run the show and control the press. It was also apparent when Ollie's abuses were accepted and not ended, as they could and should have been.

There was much more that could and should have come out during Watergate, both at the hearings and in the papers, particularly the Post. I gave some of it to the Post, to Bernstein and Woodward, and it was not used. More on the CIA in particular. I was not able to follow some of the leads I developed but I m reasonably sure that one would have had a good chance of linking the CIA to the Mexican money laundry.

There was much on Hunt that was pertinent and did not come out. In this connection, Helms did perjure himself in testifying that he recommended Hunt for the Mullen Agency job when Hunt retired. In fact Hunt was working for the CIA at the Mullen Agency for some years before he retired. Years in which that ~~agency~~ agency shared addresses with CIA anti-Castro activities, including its Free Cuba Committee and if I remember correctly, with Gaudet's Latin American Reports.

When Hunt was still CIA and was working at the Mullen Agency he was involved in the campaign to impeach Justice Douglas. This was through a book by Douglas Caddy, who it happens was the first lawyer for the five caught at The Watergate. He (Caddy), also was in the Mullen Agency, ostensibly representing, as I now recall, United Fruit, also a CIA asset. Hunt was involved in the book and the corporate entity set up to handle it and it used Mullen's covert address as its address, an answering and mail service in the Washingtom Building. Hunt also used that address before this book, after he stopped using the address of a New York literary agency, Littauer and Wilkinson. This change was about 1969.

Whether as an official act or not, the CIA was very improperly involved in the illegal and improper acts of those working for it, the political campaign against a Justice.

So far all those who perjured themselves in and related to the Iran/Contra investigation have been immune and it appears they will be immune. And not one seems to have suffered professionally, either. That this was true in Watergate merely assured these Iran/Contra felons that it would be true with them.

The nature of these hearings was such that there was drama, there was excitement, there was what was entirely new to the ignorant masses, so most people believed there was what there never was, a real investigation. Hersh makes it apparent that none was intended. All those responsible bear a share in how this has diminished us. Again thanks,

Harold